

## Special exhibition at CONSENSE 2014

### "Sustainable building with renewable resources"

*This year's CONSENSE trade fair for sustainable building will feature the first specialist exhibition "Sustainable building with renewable resources" organised by the Messe Stuttgart in collaboration with the Netzwerk Nachhaltiges Bauen (Network for Sustainable Construction), the **Bamboo Technology Network Europe** and sustainability consultants "brands & values".*

Sustainable building is here to stay. As a consequence of climate change, resource- and energy-efficient building is increasingly finding favour with those undertaking construction and renovation projects. This is why construction methods based on the use of carbon-neutral renewable resources and ecological restoration technologies offer excellent growth opportunities for the entire construction industry.

The focal point of the special exhibition will be the innovative model project

"Sustainable Construction Competence Centre" in Verden, one of Europe's tallest straw-bale-insulated timber buildings for commercial use (see Fig. 1).

Thanks to numerous examples taken from this construction project, architects, planners, auditors, manufacturers of building products and contractors will be able to gain valuable insights into the overall process of using renewable resources for this resource-friendly and efficient style of construction.

*Fig. 1: Competence centre of the North German Centre for Sustainable Construction in Verden*



The team of architects from the North German Centre for Sustainable Construction will be on hand to advise on the special requirements that need to be considered when designing and building with straw-bale-insulated timber.

The building materials manufacturers involved in the construction project will be showing innovative products made from natural materials that are safe to human health (see Figure 2) as well as advanced glass facade solutions that set new standards in structural glazing thanks to the efficient use of materials and the elimination of metal components (see Figure 3).



*Fig. 2: Installation of the prefabricated straw-bale components*

The environmental and climate experts from brands & values sustainability consultants will advise property developers, architects and planners on how they can use renewable resources to optimise the environmental performance of their buildings.

In order to demonstrate the benefits of sustainable building with renewable materials, the "Sustainable building with renewable resources" exhibition will extend to over 100sqm. Visitors will be

able to see that sustainable houses are not only energy-efficient but also high quality, aesthetically pleasing and, importantly, modern!

For the first time, members of the association **BTN Europe** will be showing products made of bamboo, which is as hard as oak and ideal for both interior finishing as well as outdoor areas. Bamboo also comes into its own when combined with other materials to make "lightweight components". And this is just the start of its development!

The Association's goal is to replace timber from tropical forests with fast-growing and sustainably grown bamboo.

*Figure 3: Wood supports glass – the TGC facade from UNIGLAS*



**The Netzwerk Nachhaltiges Bauen (Sustainable Construction Network) was**

established in 2008. It links researchers, professional associations, manufacturers, planners, contractors and end users.

One result of its networking efforts was the realisation of the "North German Centre for Sustainable Construction" project. The North German Centre seeks to pool available knowledge of efficient, resource-friendly building methods.

Verden is also developing into a hub for sustainable building in northern Germany.

Thanks to the Network's membership and its professional associations, numerous promising research and development projects have been and are being initiated.

In the North German Centre, for example, one of the country's largest exhibitions on ecological-sustainable construction is being created. The Centre also has a training facility that covers all aspects of sustainable building.

The undertaking has become a flagship project for the District of Verden's regional development concept. The

project has received funding totalling EUR 4.4 million since 2011 from the European Union via the State of Lower Saxony. Other financial supporters include the Town and District of Verden and the Rentenbank.

**brands & values sustainability consultants GmbH** is a consulting firm specialising in sustainability. brands & values sustainability consultants offer companies in various industries customised green business solutions that combine sustainable economics with business success.

With its team of experienced sustainability strategists, environmental engineers and green accounting specialists, brands & values sustainability consultants advises construction industry companies on strategies for successfully positioning themselves in the expanding green building market and optimising the sustainability of their products and production technologies, as well as on preparing Environmental Product Declarations (EPD) for building products.